

In the claims:

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

7. (Currently amended) A candle filter element as defined in claim 610, wherein said openings are formed as circles.

8. (Currently amended) A candle filter element as defined in claim 610, wherein said openings are formed as slits.

9. (Previously added) A candle filter element as defined in claim 8, wherein said openings are formed as said slits forming an angle of less 100° with an axis of said sheath element.

10. (New) A candle filter element for assembly in a pressurized container, the candle filter element comprising a support body disposed around a central tube and formed as a sheath element, so as to form a single hollow chamber between the central tube and said support body of the filter element and having a closed surface with openings, over which closed surface a filter cloth is stretched, said support body having a central axis, said closed surface of said support body extending parallel to said axis and having a six-lobed shape with each lobe formed by a semi-circle.

11. (New) A candle filter for assembly in a pressurized container, comprising a central tube having an axis; and a candle filter element including a support body disposed around a central tube and formed as a sheath element so as to form a single hollow chamber between the central tube and said support body of the filter element and having a closed surface with openings, over which cloth surface a filter cloth is stretched, said support body having a central axis coinciding with said axis of said central tube, said closed surface of said support body extending parallel to said axes and having a six-lobed shape with each lobe formed by a semi-circle.

12. (New) A candle filter as defined in claim 11, wherein said central tube is removably arranged inside said sheath element.